1 *Introduction*

As the Transitional Government of Afghanistan reforms its public administration institutions, it recognizes the need to strengthen its capacities to provide effective environmental management and to integrate environmental issues into the reconstruction agenda. To achieve this goal, the Ministry of Irrigation, Water Resources and Environment (MIWRE) has requested the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to provide an integrated package of capacity building activities that contribute to the development of a stand-alone and self-sufficient Department of Environment (DoE) with the required technical capacity to implement the Ministry's environmental mandate. To achieve this goal, the UNEP Capacity Building Programme will implement the following nine components:

1. **Environmental Coordination.** Facilitate consultation, coordination, cooperation and mainstreaming of environmental issues and projects within the National Development Framework (NDF) through training and technical support to the Advisory Group on the Environment (AGE).

2. **Institutional Restructuring and Human Resources Development.** Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Department of Environment, in accordance with the national restructuring process undertaken by the Civil Service Reform Commission, through training and technical support in relation to mandate clarification, institutional restructuring, downsizing, human resources development and performance reviews.

3. **Environmental Impact Assessment.** Contribute to the institutionalization of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) through training and technical support in the development and effective implementation of Environmental Impact Assessment policies, procedures and legislation.

4. **Environmental Legislation, Regulation and Standards.** Contribute to the development and institutionalization of environmental laws and regulations through training and technical support in the development of an integrated environmental legal and regulatory framework.

5. **Sub-national Environmental Affairs and Community-based Natural Resource Management.** Contribute to re-establishing linkages between national, provincial and district levels of government through training and technical support, and through the implementation of pilot projects that encourage community-based natural resource management.

6. **Environmental Policy and Planning.** Contribute to the development of national environmental policy through training and technical support in the development of a national environmental action plan, and the establishment of mechanisms for inter-ministerial cooperation and coordination.

7. **Environmental Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting.** Facilitate State of the Environment reporting through training and technical support in the development of environmental monitoring, information management, analysis and reporting.

8. **Environment Education: Communications, Outreach and Education.** Increase public awareness of environmental issues through training and technical support in the development of awareness campaigns, environmental reporting, environmental education and public participation in decision-making.

9. **Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Regional Cooperation.** Assist in the implementation of multilateral and regional environmental agreements through training and technical support in project proposal development, legal harmonization, and reporting.

The Capacity Building Programme has been divided into a series of two phases. Phase 1 covers the period October 2003 to October 2004. It has been designed to address the most urgent needs in components 1 to 5. Phase 1 has been funded by the EC under the Public Administration Reform Programme (EUR 750,000) as well as by the Government of Finland (EUR 220,000).

Phase 2 of the UNEP Capacity Building Programme will cover the period up to June 2006. During this period, components 6 to 9 will be implemented, while activities under components 1-5 will be extended up to June 2006. The EC has pledged to fund up to EUR 3,000,000 of activities under Phase 2. Additional donors for Phase 2 include the Government of Finland (EUR 200,000), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) (US$ 400,000) and UNEP itself.

The implementation schedule for the entire UNEP programme is presented in the following table:

	2004				2005				2006			
Component	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1. Environmental Coordination												
2. Institutional Restructuring												
3. Environmental Impact Assessment												
4. Environmental Law												
5. Sub-national Affairs												
6. Environmental Policy												
7. Environmental Reporting												
8. Environment Education												
9. MEA's and regional Cooperation												

Legend:

Continuation of preparatory activities, work planning, technical support

National staff recruitment

Results-based customized training per unit

Additional specialized technical training as well as policy and project implementation

Programme closure

Implementation of the UNEP Capacity Building Programme is managed by the UNEP Post-Conflict Assessment Unit (PCAU), in close cooperation with the UNEP Regional Resource Center for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP). Additional implementing partners include UNEP Global Resource Inventory Database (GRID) and IUCN-The World Conservation Union.

In order to keep all stakeholders fully informed about progress made by the UNEP capacity building programme, a progress report will be distributed on a quarterly basis henceforward. This first progress report is covering the period January to July 2004. The following sections outline the progress that was achieved against each of the programme activities listed in the original workplan, as well as the outstanding activities and next steps. Additional activities undertaken have also been listed as such.

2 Preparatory Activities and Project Staff Recruitment (Component 0)

2.1. Introduction

The purpose of component 0 was to conduct a series of preparatory activities covering staff recruitment, programme planning, programme administration and procurement of equipment.

2.2. Summary of Progress

Activity		Status and Outputs
1.1	Recruit and hire an international programme manager for the UNEP project office.	After approval from MIWRE and EC, Dr. Asif Zaidi joined the project as Programme Manager in April 2004. Dr. Zaidi comes with two decades of experience in international development and environmental management in Iran, Tajikistan and Pakistan, while working for the Government of Iran, AKDN and IUCN-The World Conservation Union.
1.2	Recruit and hire National staff for the UNEP project office consisting of an administrative assistant, programme assistant, operations assistant, two translators, one network administrator, three drivers and three security guards.	The positions of administrative assistant, programme assistant, operations assistant, network administrator, caretaker and three drivers have been filled. Recruitment process is underway for the positions of translators, wherein considerable difficulties have been encountered in finding the right mix of translating and interpreting skills in a combination of languages. The recruitment of guards is being worked out with MIWRE.
1.3	Refurbish 14 of the offices of MIWRE to house the UNEP project office, workspace for Afghan counter-part staff, an environmental library and a meeting room.	Fourteen offices of MIWRE refurbished and furnished by January 2004. These include offices for national operations staff, national programme staff, GEF staff, programme manager and four experts. A computer laboratory with five computers, a printer and internet connection has been established for and handed-over to the Department of Environment (DoE). The computer laboratory is being managed by a DoE staff member, under the overall supervision of the UNEP network administrator. A large conference cum training room has been established for DoE and UNEP. The room was officially inaugurated by the Deputy Minister for Environment in June. A library is being established at the premises of DoE.
1.4	Procure two project vehicles and equipment for a minimum of 20 UNEP and MIWRE staff including furniture, computers and office supplies.	Three vehicles secured on rent from UNOPS. Computer equipment, furniture and office supplies procured for the professional and administrative staff of UNEP and for the office and the secretariat of the Deputy Minister for Environment. Internet facility

	secured for the UNEP staff and the DoE computer laboratory.
1.5 Relocate the UNEP Kabul office within the premises of MIWRE.	Office relocation completed in October 2003.
1.6 Recruit and hire an international expert in the field of environmental impact assessment.	George Bouma joined the project first of July 2004 as EIA Expert. Mr. Bouma has 15 years experience working on EIA. Other than experience from Australia, Mr. Bouma brings to the project recent post-conflict experience from East Timor where he was primarily involved in developing environmental capacity in governance and administration, working for the UN mission for 18 months.
1.7 Recruit and hire an international expert in the field of environmental law.	Belinda Bowling joined the project as the Environmental Law Expert in June 2004. Prior to her present appointment, Ms. Bowling was working as a consultant for the project and thus had considerable exposure to the prevailing environmental law issues in Afghanistan. Before this, Ms. Bowling consulted to various Southern African governments, and has relevant experience in the drafting and implementation of environmental legislation in arid developing countries.
1.8 Recruit and hire an international expert in the fields of sub-national environmental affairs and Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM).	The process of recruitment of the CBNRM Expert was completed by IUCN, in collaboration with UNEP, in May 2004. The CBNRM Expert designate is presently working in Afghanistan as Natural Resource Management expert with an international organization. With the completion of the notice period with his present employer, the CBNRM Expert designate will join the project in Quarter 3, 2004. In the meantime, IUCN and UNEP will collect relevant information and prepare the ground for the inception of the sub-national environmental and CBNRM component.
1.9 Conduct an introductory meeting of all UNEP project staff.	Introductory meeting held and workplans for the period July-December 2004 for each staff member developed.

2.3. Additional Activities Conducted

Activity	**Status and Outputs**
Recruit and hire an international expert in the fields of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Environmental Education	Anupa Gupte joined the project on 29 June 2004 as Programme Officer (Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Regional Cooperation and Environmental Education). Her previous UNEP experience was focused on CBD and other biodiversity-related MEAs but it also included other MEAs and MAs plus review of GEF Strategies and country project proposals for

	GEF funding. Her experience and research in Canada and India included university teaching, ecotoxicology, environmental indicators, environment reporting, and methods for developing mass communication media, especially written material for creating public awareness.
Recruit and hire an assistant programme officer	Fatemah Shams joined the project in June 2004 as Assistant Programme Officer. Ms. Shams is a Swiss-Afghan with an educational background in environmental sciences. Ms. Shams has been working as a consultant in the framework of the Environmental Assessment for Afghanistan of UNEP PCAU in 2002. Ms. Shams was working before as project manager in a private Swiss company specialized in the field of climate change mitigation.
Train the national staff recruited for the position of network administrator	Network Administrator PCAU Geneva visited Kabul and trained the newly appointed network administrator in establishing and managing LAN at the project office.

3 *Environmental Coordination (Component 1)*

3.1. Introduction

UNEP's objectives under component 1 are to facilitate consultation, coordination, cooperation and mainstreaming of environmental issues and projects within the National Development Framework (NDF) through training and technical support to the Advisory Group on the Environment (AGE).

3.2. Summary of Progress

Activity		Status and Outputs
2.1	Conduct preparatory activities for establishing a secretariat for the Advisory Group on the Environment (AGE) within the Department of Environment.	TORs for all staff have been identified within the Stage 1 restructuring submission to the Civil Service Reform Commission, and the submission includes AGE and its secretariat.
2.4	Act as co-focal point of the AGE, in cooperation with ADB, by executing the functions listed in the AGE Terms of Reference.	Three meetings of the AGE held in October 2003, December 2003 and March 2004, respectively
2.5	Establish an AGE matrix of ongoing, proposed and conceived environmental projects in Afghanistan.	A database was prepared on the ongoing and proposed environmental projects included in the 1383 National Development Budget (NDB). The database was annexed to the Public Investment Programme for Environmental Management, submitted to the Ministry of Finance in March 2003.

2.7	Establish a capacity building technical committee within the framework of the AGE with all donors and agencies involved in capacity building activities with MIWRE.	Preliminary discussions held on establishing the CB technical committee.
2.8	Facilitate MIWRE participation in meetings and task forces of the Consultative Groups, especially the Consultative Groups on Natural Resources Management and on Urban Management.	MIWRE participation facilitated during 1383 budget discussions (see also activity 2.10)
2.9	Establish a basic environmental library to support the AGE consisting of environmental reference materials, and information on best practice in environmental management.	First round of materials ordered for the library received. Three independent initiatives on library presented respectively by MIWRE, ADB and UNEP will be integrated.
2.10	Assist in preparing written reports for the AGE, the CG Standing Committee, and donors.	Public Investment Programme prepared for 1383 budget, strategic policy document for mainstreaming environment issues within the CG thematic groups distributed. The project worked closely with the MIWRE and the Ministry of Agriculture in preparing and submitting the National Priority Programme (NPP) for Agriculture and Environment component to the Budget Committee.

3.3. *Additional Activities Conducted*

One MIWRE staff to be sent to an environmental leadership training programme.	A MIWRE staff facilitated to attend an environmental leadership training programme organized and sponsored by UNEP ROAP in collaboration with Tongji University, Shanghai, China.
Assistance provided to MIWRE to identify Afghanistan's most pressing environmental needs until 2015.	Assistance provided to MIWRE in identifying Afghanistan's most pressing environmental needs until 2015, in the context of the consultative process for the preparation of the document "Securing Afghanistan's Future"[6] for the Berlin conference of 2004. For instance, the report states that the Government's vision calls for an integrated approach to natural resources development and management, with active participation by communities and the private sector,

[6] ADB, UNAMA, UNDP, WB; Securing Afghanistan's Future: Accomplishments and the Strategic Path Forward; Government/ International Agency Report, March 2004

	based on efficient and sustainable utilization of natural resources, to achieve economic growth while supporting peace-building, security and equity. The report also mentions that the Programme Management Unit in MIWRE for natural resource management will be a central tool for enhancing implementation capability.

4 *Institutional Restructuring (Component 2)*

4.1. Introduction

UNEP's objectives under component 2 are to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Department of Environment, in accordance with the process of the Civil Service Reform Commission, through training and technical support in relation to mandate clarification, institutional restructuring, downsizing, human resources development and performance reviews.

4.2. Summary of Progress

Activity		Status and Outputs
3.1	Conduct preparatory activities for establishing a Human Resources Team within the Department of Environment.	The concept of a Human Resources Team is embedded in the Stage I submission to the CSRC and will be activated after CSRC approves stage 1 and 2 submissions.
3.2	Develop a roster of national and international Afghan professionals that have suitable skills and experience to join the project either as counter-part staff or as short-term consultants.	Roster development in early stages.
3.3	Work with MIWRE, the Civil Service Commission, ADB and other technical assistance providers on the government restructuring exercise.	Stage 1 proposal drafted by UNEP and ADB was submitted to CSRC in April 2004 and is pending approval, after which UNEP and ADB will assist in the development of the stage 2 proposal.
3.6	Organize a two-day workshop on institutional structures for environmental management in developing countries.	A decision-making ministerial discussion forum on the institutional structure of the DoE was organised in March 2004. A background report was also produced for this event.

5 *Environmental Impact Assessment (Component 3)*

5.1. *Introduction*

UNEP's objectives under component 3 are to contribute to the institutionalization of environmental impact assessment (EIA) through training and technical support in the development and effective implementation of environmental impact assessment guidelines, policies, procedures and legislation.

A UNEP Mission visited Kabul (9–17 March 2004) to determine the next steps for EIA policy development. The UNEP mission met with key EIA stakeholders to identify policy goals and identify next steps for policy development. An inter-ministerial meeting on EIA was held on 13 March 2004 for senior Ministerial staff to further clarify the current state of EIA in Afghanistan and to facilitate the development of EIA policy within MIWRE.

In July, the internationally recruited expert on EIA arrived in Kabul. Whilst there has been some 'settling in' time, development of a six-month work plan has been achieved. The focus of this first six month work plan is to understand the range of projects being undertaken in Afghanistan, the dominant sectoral activity and from here develop guidelines for screening and scoping of projects. Also meetings between Donors and technical Ministries and drafting of guidelines have commenced. Progress in this component will increase from August onwards.

5.2. *Summary of Progress*

Activity	Status and Outputs
4.1 Conduct preparatory activities for establishing an Environmental Impact Assessment Team within the Department of Environment.	TORs for all counterpart staff have been identified within the Stage 1 restructuring submission to CSRC. A mission was sent to Kabul to identify detailed EIA work plan.
4.7 Assist MIWRE, ADB, AACA and the Ministry of Finance in incorporating environment markers for all projects in National Development Budget .	Environmental markers included within donor assistance database. All projects screened and those with potential environmental impacts identified.

5.3. *Additional Activities Conducted*

Undertake a review of donors, UN agencies and key government Ministries to assess the types of projects being conducted and the status of EIA in projects in Afghanistan	Meetings with World Bank, ADB and MRRD have shown EIA to be ad-hoc and exclusive to involvement of UNEP and the MIWRE. Preliminary agreement from WB, ADB and MRRD to participate with MIWRE in future EIA activities.
Assist in developing capacity for EIA in MIWRE	Developed and delivered lecture on overview of EIA and associated administrative systems.
Develop a report on best international practice in EIA	Commenced developing a guideline for screening and scoping of projects. This is the first phase of an EIA procedure and will form part of the report but also be used as administrative guidelines for adoption by the Government of Afghanistan

6 *Environmental Law (Component 4)*

6.1. *Introduction*

UNEP's objectives under component 4 are to contribute to the institutionalization of environmental laws and regulations through training and technical support in the development of an integrated environmental legal and regulatory framework.

6.2. *Summary of Progress*

Activity	Status and Outputs
5.1 Conduct preparatory activities for establishing an Environmental Law Team within the Department of Environment.	TORs for all counterpart staff have been identified within the Stage 1 restructuring submission.
5.7 Provide inputs into the constitutional process to promote the inclusion of environmental rights.	Inputs provided to MIWRE, UNAMA and the Constitutional Commission in December 2003 and January 2004.
5.8 Review the draft Environmental Protection Act to ensure it is consistent with international best practice, and that it provides a clear division of responsibilities between ministries and levels of government.	EPA reviewed. Comments on the EPA requested from UNEP HQ and regional offices and from IUCN. All comments consolidated and collated and submitted to the Environmental Law Team, the pro-bono US-led team that drafted the draft legislation.

6.3. *Additional Activities Conducted*

Hold series of environmental law lectures for DoE staff.	Introductory lecture on the role of law in societies, with particular reference to the notion of rule of law, held in July 2004 and training materials distributed to attendees. Bimonthly lectures to be held until December 2004.
Collect and translate relevant existing environmental laws.	Hunting and nature protection laws collected and translated in July 2004. Collection and translation of other laws underway.
Develop domestic legislative implementation plan for the Convention on Illegal Trade of Endangered Species (CITES).	Draft legislative implementation plan developed in May 2004 in collaboration with MIWRE. Meeting to be held with MIWRE and Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry to agree on final plan.
Develop network of persons involved in the justice reform sector in Afghanistan.	Meetings held in July 2004 with President Karzai's legal advisor, the Italian Justice Project (justice reform lead agency in Afghanistan) and The Asia Foundation.

7 Community-based Natural Resources Management (Component 5)

7.1. Introduction

UNEP's objectives under component 5 are to contribute to re-establishing linkages between national, provincial and district levels of government through training and technical support, and through the implementation of pilot projects that encourage community-based resource management.

The process of recruitment of the CBNRM Expert was completed by IUCN, in collaboration with UNEP, in May 2004. The CBNRM Expert designate is presently working in Afghanistan as Natural Resource Management expert with an international organization. With the completion of the notice period with his present employer, the CBNRM Expert designate will join the project in Quarter 3, 2004. In the meantime, IUCN and UNEP will collect relevant information and prepare the ground for the inception of the sub-national environmental and CBNRM component.

7.2. Summary of Progress

Activity	Status and Outputs
6.1 Conduct preparatory activities for establishing a Sub-National Affairs Team within the Department of Environment.	TORs for all counterpart staff have been identified within the Stage 1 restructuring submission.

8 Environment Education: Communication, Outreach and Education (Component 8)

8.1. Introduction

UNEP's objectives under component 8 are to increase public awareness of environmental issues through training and technical support in the development of awareness campaigns, environmental reporting, environmental education and public participation in decision-making.

8.2. Summary of Progress

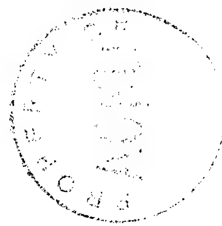
Activity	Status and Outputs
8.1 Conduct preparatory activities for establishing a Communication, Outreach and Education Team within the Department of Environment.	TORs for all counterpart staff have been identified within the Stage 1 restructuring submission.



Progress Report:

Capacity and Institution Building for Environmental Management in Afghanistan

January - July 2004



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Kabul, July 2004

8.3. *Additional Activities Conducted*

Assist MIWRE in celebrating World Environment Day.	UNEP facilitated MIWRE to celebrate World Environment Day on 5 June 2004. The main objective of this year's celebration was to increase environmental awareness among school children and teachers, while undertaking a major solid waste management campaign in parts of Kabul city. Each of the participating schools was provided with simple tools for solid waste management campaign. These tools remained with the schools after the campaign. At least 300,000 boys and girls of nearly 80 schools were involved in the environment day. While students and teachers undertook the campaign from within the school premises, Kabul Municipality cleaned the areas surrounding the schools. His Excellency President Hamid Karzai issued a statement on the World Environment Day. Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture and Information, Kabul Municipality, UN Habitat, ACC, ADB and Save Environment Afghanistan (SEA) collaborated with UNEP in this event.
Enhance regional cooperation for provision of technical assistance.	At the invitation of MIWRE, a three-member delegation of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), led by Director WII, visited Afghanistan from 17-21 July 2004 to prepare a training programme for the staff of the Department of Environment at the Ministry of Irrigation, Water Resources and Environment (MIWRE) in the area of forest and wild life conservation. The WII visit was facilitated by UNEP. Other than having extensive discussion with MIWRE, the WII delegation met a variety of stakeholders ranging from public sector institutions like the Ministry of Agriculture to international organizations like FAO. While WII prepares training programme, sponsorship for MIWRE staff to attend short, medium and long-term training courses at WII is being sought.
Assist MIWRE in delivering a training course on environmental conservation and management to the provincial staff of MIWRE.	A 3-day generic environmental conservation and management course delivered by MWIRE and UNEP staff in Jalalabad to 63 government staff from the four eastern provinces of Nangarhar, Laghman, Nuristan and Konar. Participants included staff from the Environment Departments (Nang.: 23, Lag.: 4, Nur.: 3, Kon.:17), the Agriculture Departments (Nang.: 2, Lag.: 1, Nur.: 1, Kon.:1), the Education Departments (Nang.: 1, Lag.: 1, Nur.: 1, Kon.:1), the Public Health

	Departments (Nang.: 1, Lag.: 1, Kon.:1), the Municipalities (Nang.: 1, Lag.: 1, Kon.:1), and a representative of the Governor of Laghman.

9 *Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) (Component 9)*

9.1. Introduction

UNEP's objectives under component 9 are to assist in the implementation of multilateral and regional environmental agreements through training and technical support in project proposal development, legal harmonization, and reporting, and assist in accessing funding from and implementing projects under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and in exploring opportunities for developing carbon trading agreements for Afghanistan under the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol.

9.2. Summary of Progress

Activity	Status and Outputs
9.1 Facilitate the participation of Afghan staff in various COP and technical meetings of the conventions, and assist in the development of relevant progress reports.	Arrangements for DoE staff to attend various training events, conferences and meeting on Montreal Protocol and other Ozone treaties: During the reporting period UNEP facilitated the participation of Deputy Minister for Environment to the Meeting of the South Asia Network of ODS Officers and Customs Ozone Workshop, which was held from 19–24 April 2004 in Agra, India. The participation of Minister for Irrigation, Water Resources and Environment and Deputy Minister in the International Conference for Renewable Energies, which was held from 1 – 4 June 2004 in Bonn, Germany, was also facilitated through UNEP and sponsored by FAO and the conference organizers respectively. A representative of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) was nominated and sent to attend CITES Asian Regional Meeting, Quezon City, Metro Manila, the Philippines, from 19-21 July 2004 One of the two MIWRE staff selected to attend the Ozone Training in Pakistan (1-3 August 2004) were briefed and relevant background material was provided to both.
9.3 Conduct preparatory activities for	TORs for all counterpart staff have been identified

establishing a Multilateral Environmental Agreements and regional cooperation secretariat within the Department of Environment.	within the Stage 1 restructuring submission.
9.9 Work with MIWRE to consider other international environmental conventions that should be ratified by Afghanistan, using a convention cluster approach.	Facilitation of Afghanistan's accession to Ozone Treaties: Accession instruments signed by the Government of Afghanistan in June 2004.
9.15 Assist in the preparation and implementation of GEF enabling activity projects, in particular, the Second National Communications under UNFCCC, a National Capacity Self-Assessment, a National Adaptation Programme of Action, and a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.	Two proposals were submitted to the GEF for enabling activites: • a National Capacity Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management – Afghanistan (NCSA) – Budget US$ 200,000 • the preparation of a National Adaptation Programmes for Action under the UNFCCC (NAPA) – Budget US$ 200,000 The NCSA proposal was approved by GEF on 15 May 2004 while NAPA proposal has been endorsed by MIWRE and is being processed for approval by GEF.

9.3. Additional Activities Conducted

Facilitate regional cooperation	A MIWRE staff nominated to attend the Second Meeting of the ECO Working Group on Environment (4-5 August 2004) was briefed and provided with relevant background material, including a presentation on Afghanistan's post-conflict environment assessment.
Facilitate implementation of multilateral environment agreements (MEAs).	Drafted (July 2004) Afghanistan's response to Ozone Secretariat regarding Decision XVI/7 and briefed the Deputy Minister of MIWRE about it.
Conduct training sessions on MEAs for government staff.	First training session titled 'Orientation to MEAs' was conducted in July 2004.

10. *Conclusions*

This report demonstrates that significant progress has been made within the UNEP capacity building programme for Afghanistan during the period January to July 2004. All preparatory activities are nearly complete, and important initiatives have been undertaken in terms of institutional restructuring, environmental coordination, human resources development and environmental law development.

Despite the progress made, the programme also faced a number of constraints that lead to delays in implementation. These include:

- The recruitment process for international staff was delayed in order to provide sufficient time to identify the best candidates for the respective positions.
- The Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) component could not become fully operational as the CBNRM Expert was not on board in time.
- The procurement of furniture and equipment was delayed first due to insufficient local supply, and second due to logistical and transportation issues.

In addition to these constraints, the UNEP Capacity Building Programme learned a number of important lessons that will be immediately applied in order to improve programme delivery.

- MIWRE requires flexibility from the UNEP programme in order to respond to emerging needs and priorities. As a result, the existing accountability and reporting mechanisms must be improved between UNEP and MIWRE to ensure proper programme management according to donor requirements. In this regard, there is current pressure from the Ministry for the UNEP programme to focus on visible capacity building projects that have immediate visible results. Therefore, some activities of the UNEP programme may be accelerated. Similarly, the issue of monetary and non-monetary incentives for the DoE counterpart staff and the DoE heads of sections would need quick resolution.
- There is a need to improve the formal communication lines between UNEP and the main project partners including MIWRE and EC in order to keep all parties properly informed about progress. New communication management tools will be implemented in August including quarterly progress reports, minute taking at all official meetings, and clear lines of reporting between UNEP and MIWRE.
- While good progress has been made on improving the operational relationship between UNEP and ADB, further efforts need to be taken to strengthen the coordination and integration of UNEP and ADB capacity building activities.

Preface

This report covers the implementation period from January to July 2004 mainly for Phase 1 of UNEP's Capacity and Institution Building Programme for Environmental Management for Afghanistan (Components 0 – 5)[1]. The progress regarding components 0 – 5 is reported against the workplan described in the contract with the EC for Phase 1 and additional activities undertaken are listed as such. UNEP started the implementation of components 8 and 9 due to outstanding needs of the MIWRE as well as the need to capitalize on available opportunities. Progress achieved in relation to these Phase 2 activities, which have been undertaken during January to July 2004, is reported against the workplan described in the proposal to the EC for Phase 2. Additional activities undertaken are listed as such.

Executive Summary

Progress was made in the following areas of the programme.

Institutional and Environmental Policy Development

The work on institutional and environmental policy development focused on five key areas.

First, UNEP worked in partnership with ADB to deliver the necessary technical assistance to the Ministry of Irrigation, Water Resources and Environment (MIWRE) to support the development and submission of the Stage 1 restructuring proposal to the Civil Service Reform Commission (CSRC). In order to support the on-going reform of the Department of Environment (DoE) of MIWRE, UNEP and ADB organised two events, as well as provided background reports on institutional structures for environmental management in other countries as examples. The first event, a workshop organised by ADB on 25 and 26 October 2003 focussed on institutional development of each of the three departments of MIWRE. The second event, a decision-making ministerial discussion forum organised by UNEP on 18 March 2004, discussed the institutional structure of the Department of Environment. The purpose of these events was to study the institutional structures utilized by other environmental administrations, and to identify a suitable structure for the MIWRE and DoE. The two events, and other technical assistance provided to MIWRE, resulted in a draft departmental structure that was submitted to the Civil Service Reform Commission (CSRC) in April 2004. After its formal approval, UNEP and ADB will assist MIWRE and DoE in the development of Stage 2 proposal.

The second area of activity concentrated on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) policy development. In an effort to identify the potential environmental impacts of development projects, UNEP and MIWRE successfully obtained the consent of the Ministry of Finance to include environmental information within the donor assistance database and project submission forms for the 1383 national budget. This allowed for all projects with potential environmental impact to be identified and for appropriate actions to be taken by the Transitional Government of Afghanistan in relation to those projects. A first round of screening was conducted by UNEP and MIWRE whereby 108 projects were identified as falling within the environment sector, while 325 were

[1] For the coherence of this report some activities undertaken in 2003 are also mentioned, but are declared as such.

identified as having potentially significant environmental impacts. A UNEP Mission visited Kabul (9–17 March 2004) to determine the next steps for EIA policy development. The UNEP mission met with key EIA stakeholders to identify policy goals and identify next steps for policy development. An inter-ministerial meeting on EIA was held on 13 March 2004 for senior Ministerial staff to further clarify the current state of EIA in Afghanistan and to facilitate the development of EIA policy within MIWRE.

The third area of activity was the assistance provided to MIWRE in identifying Afghanistan's most pressing environmental needs until 2015, in the context of the consultative process for the preparation of the document "Securing Afghanistan's Future"[2] for the Berlin conference of 2004.

Fourth, UNEP and IUCN provided inputs to the draft constitutional clause on the environment, and also gave additional background information on best practice. Two references to the environment were included within the approved constitution. The first acknowledges that the people of Afghanistan are responsible for "ensuring a prosperous life, and sound environment for all those residing in this land". The second obliges the state to "adopt necessary measures for safeguarding forests and the environment".

Finally, UNEP was active in three key areas concerning Afghanistan's participation in multi-lateral environmental agreements. UNEP facilitated Afghanistan's accession to the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol (Ozone Treaties), and the accession instruments were signed by the Government of Afghanistan in June 2004. In addition, UNEP provided assistance in the preparation of two proposals to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for enabling activities. These included a National Capacity Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management (NCSA), with a budget of US$ 200,000, and support for the preparation of a National Adaptation Programmes for Action (NAPA) under the UNFCCC, with a budget of US$ 200,000. The NCSA proposal was approved by GEF on 15 May 2004 while NAPA proposal has been endorsed by MIWRE and is being processed for approval by GEF.

Environmental Coordination

UNEP and ADB co-organized three meetings of the Advisory Group on the Environment (AGE)[3] in an effort to improve the coordination of environmental activities and to share information between key stakeholders. It was identified that the meetings must improve their structure and content, and begin to develop technical task forces that can begin to address specific issues, such as environmental impact assessment, environmental law and environmental health.

To further facilitate project coordination in the environment sector, UNEP and MIWRE developed a Public Investment Programme (PIP) for the Environmental Management for 1383. The document analyses all projects with environmental components in the national development budget, and identifies those with key environmental relevance. In total 108 projects that fall directly within the environment sector were listed. This is an important first step at improving environmental coordination. The next step is to improve the sharing of information between the relevant environmental stakeholders and to promote their participation in the Advisory Group on the Environment.

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[2] ADB, UNAMA, UNDP, WB; Securing Afghanistan's Future: Accomplishments and the Strategic Path Forward; Government/ International Agency Report, March 2004

[3] The AGE meetings were held in October 2003, December 2003 and March 2004 respectively.

Training and Capacity Building Workshops

In addition to the training activities mentioned in the area of institutional and environmental policy development, UNEP organized three training workshops for MIWRE staff. The first event was a 3-day workshop on the identification of funding opportunities through the Global Environmental Facility (22–24 March 2004). The information gained in this workshop was also used to develop two GEF enabling project proposals for GEF funding within the framework of component 9 of UNEP's Capacity and Institution Building Programme for Environmental Management for Afghanistan.

At the invitation of MIWRE, a three-member delegation of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), led by Director WII, visited Afghanistan from 17-21 July 2004 to prepare a training programme for the staff of the Department of Environment at the Ministry of Irrigation, Water Resources and Environment (MIWRE) in the area of forest and wildlife conservation. The WII visit was facilitated by UNEP. Other than having extensive discussion with MIWRE, the WII delegation met a variety of stakeholders ranging from public sector institutions like the Ministry of Agriculture to international organizations like FAO. While WII prepares the training programme, sponsorship for MIWRE staff to attend short, medium and long-term training courses at WII is being sought.

The third event was a 3-day environmental conservation and management course delivered by MWIRE and UNEP staff in Jalalabad to 60 MIWRE staff from four eastern provinces (Nangarhar, Laghman, Nuristan and Konar).

Human Resources

An international recruitment process was conducted for all of the Phase 1 expert staff. The gender balanced team (ratio 3:2) includes the programme manager (Pakistan), the assistant programme officer (Swiss-Afghan), the environmental impact assessment expert (Australian), the environmental law expert (British-South African) and the programme officer for multilateral environmental agreements, regional cooperation and environmental education (Indian).

In addition, recruitment was also conducted by IUCN, in collaboration with UNEP, for the community based natural resource management expert, who will join the project in Quarter 3, 2004.

In consultation with both MIWRE and the EC, the programme manager took up office on 17 April 2004, and the remaining international staff commenced working in late June.

The national-level positions of the administrative assistant, programme assistant, operations assistant, network administrator, caretaker and three drivers have also been filled. A recruitment process is still underway for the positions of translators, wherein considerable difficulties have been encountered in finding the right mix of translating and interpreting skills in a combination of languages. The recruitment of guards is being worked out with MIWRE.

Equipment

Fourteen MIWRE offices were refurbished and furnished by January 2004. These include offices for national operations staff, national programme staff, GEF staff, the programme manager and four experts. Computer equipment, furniture and office supplies have been procured for the professional and administrative staff of UNEP and for the office and the secretariat of the Deputy Minister for Environment.

To meet the transportation needs of UNEP as well as Afghan counterpart staff connected to the project, three vehicles have been secured on rent from UNOPS.

A computer laboratory with five computers, a printer and internet connectivity has been established for the Department of Environment (DoE). The computer laboratory, managed by a DoE staff member, under the overall supervision of the UNEP network administrator, was officially inaugurated by the Deputy Minister for Environment in June. The newly appointed UNEP Network Administrator was trained in Kabul by the UNEP PCAU Network Administrator in establishing and managing the LAN.

A large conference and training room has been established for the DoE and UNEP staff. In addition, a library is being established at the premises of DoE and 35 different environmental publications have been ordered.

Facilitation of participation of Ministry staff in international workshops and conferences

During the reporting period, UNEP facilitated the participation of the Deputy Minister for Environment to the Meeting of the South Asia Network of ODS Officers and Customs Ozone Workshop, which was held from 19–24 April 2004 in Agra, India.

The participation of the Minister for Irrigation, Water Resources and Environment and the Deputy Minister to the International Conference for Renewable Energies, held from 1–4 June 2004 in Bonn, Germany, was facilitated through UNEP and sponsored by FAO and the conference organizers respectively.

UNEP facilitated the attendance of a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) at CITES Asian Regional Meeting, Quezon City, Metro Manila, the Philippines, 19-21 July 2004.

UNEP also supported a DoE staff member to attend an environmental leadership programme sponsored and organized by the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) in collaboration with Tongji University at Shanghai, China.

Participation in environmental events

UNEP participated in Kabul Green Week, an initiative of the Afghan Conservation Corps (ACC) project. In this regard, UNEP arranged a reception that was attended by the donor and international community, as well a key Ministers and other government officials. UNEP also provided ACC with logistical support during the event. During the event a total of one million trees (fruit-bearing as well as forest amenity trees), provided from the neighbouring countries and California, were planted in various districts of Kabul through ACC's support.

UNEP facilitated MIWRE to celebrate World Environment Day on 5 June 2004. The main objective of this year's celebration was to increase environmental awareness among school children and teachers, while undertaking a major solid waste management campaign in parts of Kabul city. At least 300,000 boys and girls of nearly 80 schools were involved in the environment day event and clean-up activities His Excellency President Hamid Karzai issued a statement on the World Environment Day.

Summary of Achievements by Programme Component

The following summary lists the achievements of the UNEP programme during the reporting period according to the relevant programme component.

Component 0 – Preparatory Activities and Staff Recruitment

- 14 MIWRE offices refurbished and furnished
- UNEP offices relocated
- Computer training room with Internet connection in the MIWRE established
- Equipment procured: The offices were equipped with furniture and eleven computers (5 laptops, 6 desktops) and 3 printers have been procured and an Internet connection (512Mbps) has been established.
- 3 vehicles have been secured on rent from UNOPS for transportation
- Programme manager, assistant programme officer and four environmental experts recruited *(for qualification and background please refer to chapter 2)*
- Network administrator recruited and trained
- Recruitment underway for all remaining national staff positions

Component 1 – Environmental Coordination

- TORs of counterpart staff developed
- 3 meetings held of the Advisory Group on the Environment (AGE)[4]
- Data collected for environmental projects matrix
- Discussions held with Ministry officials on the establishment of a capacity building technical committee
- Environmental reference materials ordered for inclusion in the environmental library
- Public investment programme for environmental management developed
- Facilitation of attention of a MIWRE staff to an environmental leadership training programme organized and sponsored by UNEP ROAP in collaboration with Tongji University, Shanghai, China.
- Assistance was also provided to MIWRE to identify Afghanistan's most pressing environmental needs until 2015.

Component 2 – Institutional Restructuring

- Concept of Human Resource Team developed and recruitment strategy for MIWRE staff conceived and included in the Stage 1 submission to the Civil Service Reform Commission
- Roster of Afghan environmental experts under development
- Phase 1 restructuring proposal for the civil service reform commission drafted
- 2 workshops held in partnership with ADB on structuring an environmental administration[5] and internal report provided to the Ministry on example structures and mandates of environmental authorities

[4] The AGE meetings were held in October 2003, December 2003 and March 2004 respectively.
[5] October 2003, March 2004

Component 3 – Environmental Impact Assessment

- TORs of counterpart staff developed
- EIA mission sent to Kabul to assess status of EIA in Afghanistan and identify next steps
- Inter-ministerial meeting on EIA held on developing EIA guidelines for Afghanistan
- Environmental markers included within donor assistance database
- Introductory lecture on overview of EIA and associated administrative systems held for MIWRE staff

Component 4 – Environmental Law

- TORs of counterpart staff developed
- Constitutional clause on the environment reviewed and inputs provided
- Internal briefing provided on model constitutional environmental clauses
- Liaison with the pro bono US-based Environmental Law Team (ELT) team drafting the Environmental Protection Act (EPA), and at the request of MIWRE, detailed review of the draft EPA
- Introductory lecture on law and society, with particular reference to the notion of the rule of law, held for MIWRE staff
- Collection and translation of relevant existing environmental laws

Component 5 – Community-based Natural Resources Management

- TORs of counterpart staff developed
- Partnership negotiated with the World Conservation Union for component implementation
- CBNRM expert will join the project in Quarter 3, 2004

Component 8 – Environment Education: Communication, Outreach and Education

- TORs of counterpart staff developed
- MIWRE assisted in celebrating World Environment Day
- Facilitation of visit of three-member delegation of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) to Kabul for the preparation of a training programme for the DoE.
- Support and facilitation of 3 days MIWRE workshop in Jalalabad on environmental conservation and management. The workshop was held for MIWRE staff of the Provinces of Ningahar, Laghman, Nuristan and Kunar.

Component 9 – Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Regional Cooperation

- TORs of counterpart staff developed
- Facilitation of Afghanistan's accession to Ozone Treaties
- Arrangement for DoE staff to attend various training events, conferences and meetings *(for further details, please refer to chapter 9)*
- Introductory training session for MIWRE staff on MEAs conducted



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